

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP

ST. PETERSBURG, FLA.
TIMES

DEC 30 1963

m. 116,399

S. 120,731

Front Page	Edit Page	Other Page
---------------	--------------	---------------

Date: DEC 30 1963

The Other Side

I read the article by Mr. Joseph Alsop praising the service of his "oldest friend" Mr. Richard M. Bissell to the people of the United States in handling the U2 program.

It seems to me that before we say to Mr. Bissell "Thank you and good luck" as recommended by Mr. Alsop, we clear up certain basic questions surrounding two programs undertaken by the CIA which ended in the greatest diplomatic disasters in recent U.S. history — the U2 incident over Russia, and the "Bay of Pigs" invasion of Cuba.

Mr. Bissell was in charge of both programs as pointed out by Mr. Alsop. What was his responsibility in their spectacular failure? Why did he allow the U2 flight, which was shot down, just before the Summit Conference in Paris? It cost us the plane, the pilot, the Summit Conference and all of President Eisenhower's efforts to reduce world tensions to date. I wonder whether Congress has been given satisfactory answers to these questions.

JOHN R. PANDELLI
Tallahassee

CPYRGHT